

Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 IO-11 EB-07 AID-05 MC-02 OMB-01 /096 W

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R 151830Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6862

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMBASSY THE HAGUE 9319

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY MADRID

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 1371

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MAASS, MMOL, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH CARDINAL PROTESTS GOF FOREIGN ARMS SALES

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1. IN SERMON DELIVERED DURING JANUARY 10 MASS AT NOTRE

DAME, FRENCH CARDINAL AND ARCHBISHOP FRANCOIS MARTY
ASSAILED "MISTAKEN ECONOMIC NOTION" THAT BALANCE OF PAY-
MENTS CONSIDERATIONS JUSTIFIED FRENCH FOREIGN ARMS
SALES. HE CHARACTERIZED SUCH SALES AS THE EQUIVALENT OF
"PLACING ENGINES OF DEATH IN THE HANDS OF OTHERS."

2.MARTY'S COMMENTS, WHICH RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE MEDIA
CONVERAGE , HAVE ELICITED REACTIONS FROM SEVERAL GOVERN-
MENT FIGURES INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC AND MINIS-
TER OF DEFENSE BOURGES. ESSENCE OF THEIR RESPONSE WAS
THAT WHILE FOREIGN ARMS SALES WERE PERHAPS REGRATTABLE
IN A MORAL SENSE, THE PROGRAM WAS NECESSARY TO ALLOW
SUFFICIENT PRODUCTION RUNS SO THAT FRANCE HERSELF COULD
MAINTAIN AN "INDEPENDENT" DEFENSE POSTURE AND ALOS TO
PROVIDE A SOURCE OF FRENCH JOBS. BOTH CHIRAC AND
BOURGES FURTHER JUSTIFIED FRENCH ARMS PROGRAM AS A "NO-
STRINGS" OUTLET FOR NATIONS ANXIOUS TO MAINTAIN THEIR
OWN INDEPENDENCE IN DEFENSE MATTERS.

3. COMMENT : MARTY'S COMMENTS ARE NOTABLE IN THAT
FRENCH FOREIGN ARMS SALES HAVE TRADITIONALLY ESCAPED
DOMESTIC CRITICISM. EVEN THE COMMUNISTS PERHAPS DUE TO
EMPLOYEMNT CNSIDERATIONS, HAVE FOR MOST PART OVERLOOKED
ARMS SALES IN THEIR REGULAR ATTACKS ON GOVERNMENT
POLICIES. END COMMENT
RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: ARMS, SALES, CLERGYMEN, SPEECHES, FOREIGN TRADE
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Draft Date: 15 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Authority: morefirh
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

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To: STATE
Type: TE
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